



# News Release

**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**  
Kansas City District

601 E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Missouri 64106-2896

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## **Corps gives nod to begin \$7.5 M in bridgework on Kansas City's eastside**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District issued the notice to proceed today to Environmental Specialist, Inc., to modify four rail bridges on the city's eastside to accommodate the widening of the Blue River channel near 31<sup>st</sup> and Fremont.

The notice puts into action a \$7,581,015.89 contract, which will replace two mainline single-track track bridges and extend two single-track bridges.

The project is scheduled for completion in May 2005.

"These bridge modifications will allow the Corps to remove significant flood flow restrictions under the bridges and allow full realization of the flood reduction benefits in completed portions of the project area," said John Holm, the Corps' project manager.

The modifications are part of the continuing authorized effort by the Corps and the city to address frequent flooding problems on the Blue River. More than 12 miles of channel improvements have been authorized from the mouth of the river to 63rd Street. The initial contracts were awarded in 1983, and work has continued progressively upstream from the mouth at the Missouri River to the confluence with Brush Creek (except for these bridges).

"Modifying these bridges and making the channel improvements represent a big step forward for the project and the people of Kansas City," Holm said.

The remaining channel work will include improvements from Brush Creek to the Byram's Ford Industrial Park at 63rd Street. The completed portions of the channel have already significantly reduced flood damages in the lower part of the basin.

For more information, contact Mitch Frazier at (816) 983-3486.

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- b. Project Authority.** The Blue River Channel Modification Project was authorized by Congress on 31 December 1970 under the Flood Control Act of 1970 (P.L. 91-611, 91st Congress, 2nd Session) at an estimated Federal cost of \$38,000,000 and Non-Federal cost of \$5,000,000, based on 1967 price levels. The benefit cost ratio for this project is 3.4:1 at a 6 5/8 percent interest rate. The current authorized Federal cost is \$197,800,000 and the last reported Federal cost to Congress was \$248,000,000. Non-Federal project costs of lands, damages, and relocations were estimated at \$32,400,000. The City of Kansas City, Missouri entered into a Local Cooperation Agreement (LCA) with the United States of America on 8 September 1983 (attachment 1) for the project. Any subsequent approved amendments or revisions to this agreement will automatically be incorporated into this PMP.
- c. Project Summary.** The project consists of channel modifications along 12.5 miles of the Blue River in Kansas City, Missouri, and provides 30-year flood protection with reduced flooding for less frequent events. It is anticipated the 30-year design (35,000 cfs) will lower the estimated water profile by approximately 6 to 8 feet. Improvements generally consist of cut and fill to widen and deepen the existing channel and to improve hydraulic capacity. Waste fill is generally placed in designated fill areas in the vicinity of the channel. Existing drainage structures are being extended and slope stability in high risk areas will be checked. Due to the many junkyards, industrial operations, and uncontrolled dumping along the channel, meeting the requirements of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources has developed into a major component of the project.
- d. Memorandum of Agreement.** The City and the Corps entered into a MOA on 3 June 1993 (attachment 2) which provided for the engineering, design, construction, and construction management of various relocations associated with the project. Any subsequent approved modifications, amendments, or supplements to the MOA will automatically be incorporated into this PMP.

For more information, contact the public affairs office at (816) 983-3486.